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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

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Dear Sir,

I Am infinitely obliged to you for bringing me news of my Angel. I have since married her, and think the low circumstances she was reduced to a piece of good luck to both of us, since it has quite removed that little pride and vanity, which was the only part of her character that I disliked, and given me an opportunity of showing her the constant and sincere affection, which I professed to her in the time of her prosperity.

Tours, R. T.

N^o 160.

Monday, September 14.

Solventur risu tabulae, tu missus abibis.

Hor.

FROM writing the history of Lions, I lately went off to that of Ants, but to my great surprize, I find that some of my good Readers have taken this last to be a work of invention, which was only a plain narrative of matter of fact. They will several of them have it that my last *Thursday* and *Friday's* papers are full of concealed satyr, and that I have attacked people in the shape of pismires, whom I durst not meddle with in the shape of men. I must confess that I write with fear and trembling ever since that ingenious person the *Examiner* in his little pamphlet, which was to make way for one of his following papers, found out treason in the word *Expect*.

But I shall for the future leave my friend to manage the controverſie in a separate work, being unwilling to fill with disputes a paper which was undertaken purely out of good-will to my countrymen. I must therefore declare that those jealousies and suspicions, which have been raised in some weak minds, by means of the two above-mentioned discourses concerning ants or pismires, are altogether groundless. There is not an emmet in all that whole narrative who is either Whig or Tory; and I could heartily wish, that the individuals of all parties among us, had the good of their country at heart, and endeavoured to advance it by the same spirit

spirit of frugality, justice, and mutual benevolence, as are visibly exercised by members of those little Commonwealths.

After this short preface, I shall lay before my Reader a letter or two which occasioned it.

Mr. IRONSIDE,

“ I Have laid a wager, with a friend of mine, about the pigeons that
 “ used to peck up the corn which belonged to the ants. I say that
 “ by these pigeons you meant the *Palatines*. He will needs have it that
 “ they were the *Dutch*. We both agree that the papers upon the strings
 “ which frightened them away, were *Pamphlets, Examiners*, and the like.
 “ We beg you will satisfy us in this particular, because the wager is ve-
 “ ry considerable, and you will much oblige two of your

Daily Readers.

Old IRON,

“ WHY so rusty? Will you never leave your innuendos? do you think
 “ it hard to find out who is the Tulip in your last *Thursday's* pa-
 “ per? or can you imagine that three nests of ants is such a disguise, that
 “ the plainest Reader cannot see three kingdoms through it? the blow-
 “ ing up of the neighbouring settlement, where there was a race of poor
 “ beggarly ants, under a worse form of government, is not so difficult to
 “ be explained as you imagine. *Dunkirk* is not yet demolished. Your
 “ ants are enemies to rain, are they! Old *Birmingham*, no more of your
 “ ants, if you do not intend to stir up a nest of hornets.

Will. Waspe.

Dear GUARDIAN,

“ Calling in yesterday at a Coffee-house in the city, I saw a very
 “ short corpulent angry man reading your paper about the ants.
 “ I observed that he reddened and swelled over every sentence of it. Af-
 “ ter having perused it throughout, he laid it down upon the table, called
 “ the woman of the Coffee-house to him, and asked her, in a magisteri-
 “ al voice, if she knew what she did in taking in such papers! The wo-
 “ man was in such a confusion, that I thought it a piece of charity to in-
 “ terpose in her behalf, and asked him whether he had found any thing
 “ in it of dangerous import. Sir, said he, it is a Republican paper from
 “ one end to the other, and if the Author had his deserts—He here
 “ grew so exceeding choleric and fierce, that he could not proceed; un-
 “ til after having recovered himself, he laid his finger upon the following
 “ sentence, and read it with a very stern voice—*Though ants are ve-*

“ ry knowing, I do not take them to be conjurers: And therefore they
 “ could not guess that I had put some corn in that room. I perceived for
 “ several days that they were very much perplexed, and went a great
 “ way to fetch their provisions. I was not willing for some time to make
 “ them more easie; For I had a mind to know, whether they would at
 “ last find out the treasure, and see it at a great distance, and whether smel-
 “ ling enabled them to know what is good for their nourishment. Then
 “ throwing the paper upon the table; Sir, says he, these things are not
 “ to be suffered—I would engage out of this sentence to draw up an
 “ indictment that—He here lost his voice a second time, in the ex-
 “ tremity of his rage, and the whole company, who were all of them
 “ Tories, bursting out into a sudden laugh, he threw down his penny
 “ in great wrath, and retir’d with a most formidable frown.

“ This, Sir, I thought fit to acquaint you with, that you may make what
 “ use of it you please. I only wish that you would sometimes diversifie your
 “ papers with many other pieces of natural history, whether of insects or
 “ animals; this being a subject which the most common reader is capa-
 “ ble of understanding, and which is very diverting in its nature; besides,
 “ that it highly redounds to the praise of that Being who has inspired the
 “ several parts of the sensitive world with such wonderful and different
 “ kinds of instinct as enable them to provide for themselves, and preserve
 “ their species in that state of existence wherein they are placed. There
 “ is no party concerned in speculations of this nature, which instead of
 “ inflaming those unnatural heats that prevail among us, and take up most
 “ of our thoughts, may divert our minds to subjects that are useful, and
 “ suited to reasonable creatures. Dissertations of this kind are the more
 “ proper for your purpose, as they do not require any depth of mathe-
 “ matics, or any previous science, to qualifie the reader for the under-
 “ standing of them. To this I might add, that it is a shame for men to
 “ be ignorant of these worlds of wonders which are transacted in the
 “ midst of them, and not to be acquainted with those objects which are
 “ every where before their eyes. To which I might further add, that
 “ several are of opinion, there is no other use in many of these creatures
 “ than to furnish matter of contemplation and wonder to those inhabi-
 “ tants of the earth, who are its only creatures that are capable of it.

I am S I R, your constant reader and humble servant.

After having presented my reader with this set of letters, which are
 all upon the same subject, I shall here insert one that has no relation to it.
 But

But it has always been my maxim never to refuse going out of my way to do any honest man a service, especially when I have an interest in it myself.

Most venerable NESTOR,

“ AS you are a person that very eminently distinguish yourself in the promotion of the publick Good, I desire your friendship in signifying to the town, what concerns the greatest good of life, *Health*.
 “ I do assure you, Sir, there is in a vault, under the *Exchange* in *Cornhill*, over-against *Pope's-Head Alley*, a parcel of *French* wines, full of the seeds of good humour, cheerfulness and friendly mirth. I have been told, the learned of our nation agree, there is no such thing as bribery in liquors, therefore I shall presume to send you of it, lest you should think it inconsistent with integrity to recommend what you do not understand by experience. In the mean time please to insert this, that every man may judge for himself.

I am, SIR, &c.

N^o 161. *Tuesday, September 15.*

----- *incoctum generoso pectus honesto.* Perf.

EVERY principle that is a motive to good actions, ought to be encouraged, since men are of so different a make, that the same principle does not work equally upon all minds. What some men are prompted to by conscience, duty, or religion, which are only different names for the same thing, others are prompted to by *Honour*.

The sense of honour is of so fine and delicate a nature, that it is only to be met with in minds which are naturally noble, or in such as have been cultivated by great examples, or a refined education. This paper therefore is chiefly designed for those who by means of any of these advantages are, or ought to be, actuated by this glorious principle.

But as nothing is more pernicious than a principle of action when it is misunderstood, I shall consider honour with respect to three sorts of men.

First